

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting

September 20, 2001

2:00PM

Pee Dee Education Center

Florence, SC

Members Present: Mr. William Barnet, Mr. Alex Martin, Mr. Robert Daniel, Mr. Warren Giese, Dr. William Gummerson, Mrs. Susan Marlowe, Mr. Doug McTeer, Mr. Joel Smith, Mr. Robert Staton, Mr. Larry Wilson

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Mr. Barnet welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He asked that the meeting begin with a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives on September 11 and those who grieve for them.
- II. Approval of the Minutes: The August 16 Meeting: The minutes of the August 16 meeting were approved as distributed.
- III. Subcommittee Reports:
 - A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He reviewed the calculation of the high school ratings and the Subcommittee's recommendation to use the tenth grade "test-takers" file for the years 2001 and 2002. The Committee members discussed the issues in detail. The State Department of Education personnel had indicated that recalculation of the ratings would require an additional month, delaying distribution of the report cards until the first week in December. The Committee approved the change, noting that it was not agreeing to delays of the report card beyond one month.

Mr. Wilson also provided information to the Committee about changes to the English Language Arts standards that are now out for field review.
 - B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Staton reported that the Subcommittee had not met.
 - C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Barton reported for Mrs. Thompson. The EOC is working with a number of state agencies on the Family Friendly Workplace Award criteria and presentation. The award is to be sponsored by the Governor and the SC Chamber of Commerce and is to be given in late winter.
 - D. Public Awareness: Mr. Smith reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is considering a survey of community leaders to follow up on the 1999 APPLE survey and determine the degree of support for local and statewide initiatives. He also reminded members of the October 7 ETV program and the October workshops sponsored by the SC Press Association and the SC Broadcasters Association.
 - E. Staff and Administration: Mr. Barnet reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He presented the draft legislation for action. The Committee members discussed whether they wished the legislation presented as one package or separate bills. Committee members voted to approve the drafts and promote it as a package, recognizing that individual legislators would act in accordance with their roles.

Mr. Barnet presented the proposal to work with Miley and Associates on the district organization study. Members approved the proposal and the consulting firm. Mr. Barnet also presented the meeting schedule for the remainder of 2001 and 2002, noting the combination of the November and December meetings.

- IV. Task Force on Workforce Development: Mr. Don Herriott, Chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Workforce Development, discussed the role of the Task Force, the workforce issues before South Carolina and the preliminary recommendations.
- V. Report from a Key Constituency: Dr. Thomas Truitt, Executive Director of the Pee Dee Regional Education Center, thanked the Committee members for visiting the Center and meeting with the regional superintendents. He addressed three overriding issues: support for changes in educational governance; the commitment of the Pee Dee leadership to do "what is best for students" in the area of district organization; the need for a constitutional amendment to ensure that all children have access to a quality education.

Mr. Barnet thanked our hosts and the members for a beneficial day in the Pee Dee. The meeting adjourned.